

# HAPPENINGS

## Weekly Edition

January 17, 2025

## Two Lunar Landers Head For Space

### SpaceX Falcon 9 Blue Ghost

Firefly Aerospace is a private company near Austin, Texas that NASA contracted to take science payloads to the moon. The Blue Ghost mission launched from KSC last Tuesday on a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket. The company has dubbed mission number one Ghost Riders in the Sky. The lander is aiming for Mare Crisium, a dark plain you can see with the unaided eye on the right edge of a full moon. Blue Ghost will deliver 10 NASA CLPS science payloads to Mare Crisium that will provide invaluable data to the lunar science community by addressing topics like regolith behavior, interior composition and more..

The lander is mostly covered in a reflective gold-color foil. It also has sensors and a solar panel mounted to it.

The mission will spend about 45 days getting to the moon. For the first 25 days, Blue Ghost will orbit Earth. Then it will head toward the moon, where it will orbit the moon for 16 days. Once the lander reaches the surface, it will operate for 14 days. On the moon, it takes 14 Earth days to go from sunrise to sunset, then another 14 Earth days from sunset to sunrise. So when night descends on the lander, Firefly expects it to operate for the first five-plus hours of darkness before its solar-powered batteries run out.

Some of the tasks Blue Ghost has on the lunar surface will be to take soil samples, drill below the surface and capture images of the lunar sunset. NASA will also be testing a computer designed to withstand high doses of radiation, measuring the solar wind's interaction with Earth's magnetosphere and analyzing the lunar dust that adheres to everything, among other activities.

NASA wants to learn more about the lunar environment before the Artemis 3 astronauts land on the moon.

Artemis 3 is currently scheduled for 2027.



*Rendering of the Blue Ghost 1 lander on the surface of the Moon.*

### Blue Origin's New Glenn Launches



New Glenn launched for the first time ever, rising off a pad at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station at 2:03 a.m. Thursday morning. About 12.5 minutes later, the rocket's upper stage reached orbit — the main goal of the test flight, which the company called NG-1.

Blue Origin also tried to land New Glenn's reusable first stage on a ship in the Atlantic Ocean, which is nicknamed Jacklyn, after company founder Jeff Bezos' mother. The booster managed to fire up three of its engines in a reentry burn as planned, but it didn't stick the landing. A successful landing would have been something of a surprise; the company had stressed repeatedly prior to launch that this was a secondary goal that was unlikely to be achieved.

Flying aboard the New Glenn mission is a test version of Blue Origin's upcoming "Blue Ring" spacecraft. This demonstrator is designed to validate Blue Ring's communications, in-space data collection, tracking and command systems while still attached to New Glenn's second stage, Blue Origin wrote in an NG-1 mission description in December. Blue Origin is developing Blue Ring to fulfill DIU's need for a "heavy utility multi-orbit logistics vehicle," or m-OLV, to provide "low-cost, responsive access to geostationary (GEO) and other exotic orbits beyond low Earth orbit," according to a DIU statement.

Blue Ring will function as a platform for other satellites. It will be capable of carrying about 6,600 pounds across 13 different payload adapters. It will be able to transport payloads to geostationary orbit, orbits close to and around the moon, and even interplanetary orbits, according to Blue Origin.



## **Parrish Medical Group Gastroenterologist Rahul Chaudhari, MD, Achieves Board Certification**

Parrish Medical Group Rahul Chaudhari, MD, a dedicated gastroenterologist specializing in digestive health, has achieved board certification from the American Board of Gastroenterology. This prestigious recognition underscores Dr. Chaudhari's commitment to providing exceptional care and staying at the forefront of advancements in gastroenterology.

"We are proud to celebrate Dr. Chaudhari's achievement," said Kevat Patel, MD, MS, JM, CHCQM, FACP, Medical Director of Parrish Healthcare. "Board certification represents the highest standard in medical practice. It signifies that a physician has undergone rigorous training, demonstrated expertise and passed comprehensive examinations in their specialty. For patients, it is a reassurance of quality care grounded in the latest medical knowledge and techniques."

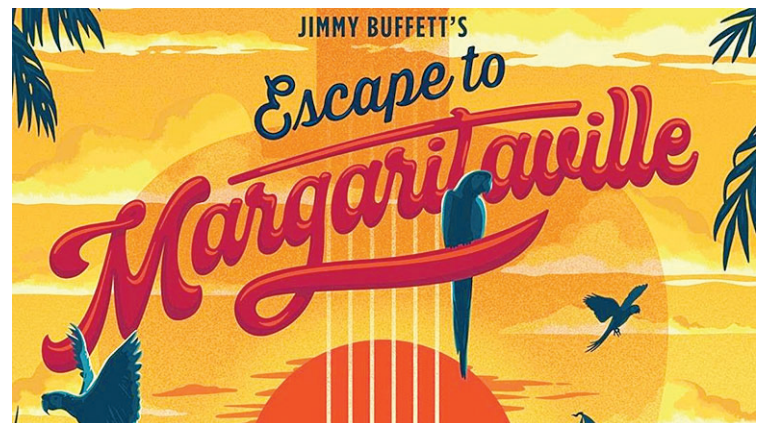
Dr. Chaudhari joined Parrish Medical Group in August 2024, and specializes in preventing, diagnosing and treating digestive tract, liver and pancreatic disorders with a special interest in gastrointestinal motility disorders (disorders affecting your body's ability to move food and nutrition through your stomach, intestines and other organs). With a patient-centered approach and a passion for improving digestive health, Dr. Chaudhari has earned the trust and

respect of patients and colleagues alike.

"Becoming board-certified is a tremendous milestone in my career," said Dr. Chaudhari. "It reflects years of dedication to my field and my commitment to providing the highest level of care possible to our Brevard community. I'm honored to have achieved this certification and appreciate Parrish Healthcare's ongoing support."

Dr. Chaudhari received his Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery degrees from Smt. NHL Municipal Medical College in Ahmedabad, India. He completed fellowship training at the Virginia Commonwealth University Medical Center in Richmond, VA, and his residency at Pennsylvania Hospital of University of Pennsylvania Health Systems in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and Civic Hospital in Gujarat, India.

Dr. Chaudhari's office is conveniently located inside Parrish Healthcare Center at 250 Harrison Street, Titusville, (Titus Landing). Patients seeking specialized care for digestive health can schedule an appointment with Dr. Chaudhari by calling 321-268-6868 or visiting [parrishhealthcare.com/Chaudhari](https://parrishhealthcare.com/Chaudhari).



### **JIMMY BUFFETT'S ESCAPE TO MARGARITAVILLE**

**JANUARY 31–FEBRUARY 16, 2025**

Returning to the Titusville Playhouse stage, this amazing hit is a musical comedy featuring the most-loved Jimmy Buffett classics, including "Cheeseburger in Paradise," "Margaritaville," "It's Five O'Clock Somewhere," "Fins," "Volcano," and many more. With a book by Emmy Award winner Greg Garcia ("My Name is Earl," "Raising Hope") and Emmy nominee Mike O'Malley ("Survivor's Remorse," "Shameless"), this hilarious, heartwarming musical is the party you've been waiting for!

#### **Stage 2**

STAGE 2 is located in an outdoor, but covered pavilion. Performances will occur rain or shine. The gates are located at 316 South Palm Avenue and open 30 minutes before your show. Please dress and be prepared for the weather. For show times, more information or to purchase tickets, visit <https://titusvilleplayhouse.com/>.





## Encaustic Painting In Titusville

Start the new year immersed in the ancient art of encaustic painting! From January 20 to February 15, the Downtown Art Gallery presents, “Exploring Encaustic Painting with Linda Krupp.” Encaustic painting, a centuries-old technique using beeswax, damar resin, and pigments, comes alive with Linda’s modern twist—layered textures, transferred images, and embedded objects.

A celebrated artist with 30 years of experience, Linda is known for her finely detailed oil paintings and dynamic palette knife techniques. Splitting her time between Florida and North Carolina, her work captures a range of subjects, from lush tropics to rustic landscapes.

A passionate educator with a Doctorate in Educational Leadership, she taught at Merritt Island High and worked in faculty development at Brevard Community College. Linda now teaches painting at her home studio in Titusville and in Asheville.

Discover artist Linda Krupp’s unique art at the Downtown Art Gallery, 400 Orange Street, Titusville, Mondays through Fridays, 11 a.m.–5 p.m., and Saturdays, 11 a.m.–3 p.m. For details, call 321-268-0122 or check out their Facebook page.

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## Volunteer Scientists and Business Committee Members Sought by County Commission

The Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program is seeking volunteers to serve on the Selection and Management Advisory Committee. The committee serves as an expert scientific advisory committee to the County Commission and staff on all issues involv-

ing the acquisition and management of environmentally endangered lands acquired under the EEL Program. The committee is made up of seven members with science backgrounds and two members with business, finance or real estate backgrounds.

### Science Applicant Qualifications:

- Four-year post-secondary academic degree (B.S. or equivalent) or a minimum of 6 years of demonstrated professional expertise in biological or environmental sciences.
- Demonstrated knowledge of Brevard County ecosystems and conservation land management techniques.
- Brevard County resident.
- Two-year appointment.
- Willing to attend meetings in-person.

### Business, Finance or Real Estate Applicant Qualifications:

- No specific level of experience is required beyond a background related to either business, finance or real estate.
- Brevard County resident.
- Two-year appointment.
- Willing to attend meetings in-person.

Interested individuals may apply through the Brevard County Government website at [brevardfl.gov/Advisory-BoardAgendasAndMinutes](http://brevardfl.gov/Advisory-BoardAgendasAndMinutes) and click on the yellow Apply Now button.

The deadline for submissions is Tuesday, January 21, 2025, at 5 p.m. For additional information on committee member responsibilities please visit the EEL Program website and review the EEL Land Acquisition Manual at the following link: [brevardfl.gov/docs/default-source/eel-documents/land-acquisition-manual.pdf?sfvrsn=7342a9a0\\_2](http://brevardfl.gov/docs/default-source/eel-documents/land-acquisition-manual.pdf?sfvrsn=7342a9a0_2) or contact Mike Knight by email at [mike.knight@brevardfl.gov](mailto:mike.knight@brevardfl.gov) or call 321-255-4466.

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## FPL Bills in 2025

Temporary Hurricane Restoration Surcharge: Hurricanes and severe weather are part of living in Florida. When a hurricane strikes, FPL works safely and as quickly as possible to restore power to our customers, sometimes bringing in thousands of additional line workers from other states to help. Such emergency restoration costs are not reflected in your bill until after a storm.

The Florida Public Service Commission (PSC) has approved FPL’s request for a temporary charge to cover costs from 2024 Hurricanes Debby, Helene and Milton. This charge also replenishes funds used after Hurricane Idalia in 2023.

**The charge adds \$12.02 to a typical 1,000-kWh residential bill from January to December this year.**

Even with this added surcharge, bills in 2025 remain below the national average. Residential rates will also increase slightly in February to pay for solar energy centers coming online.

## Public Urged To Report Invasive Asian Swamp Eel Species

The University of Florida, in partnership with the U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and other agencies, encourages the public to report sightings of the invasive Asian swamp eel, first detected in Florida's waterways in 1997. Scientifically known as *Monopterus Albus*, the Asian swamp eel is a unique, air-breathing fish native to Southeast Asia, thriving in muddy, stagnant waters. The species has established in numerous parts of the country, including Hawaii and Georgia. There is increased concern about their population growth throughout the southeast, particularly Florida.



People in Florida's waterways are urged to report through the USGS Non-indigenous Aquatic Species website, EDDMapS website or App or FWC's 888-Ive-Got-1 hotline.

For more information about the Asian swamp eel, please see the attached news release. To speak to an expert, please email Meredith Bauer, University of Florida, at [meredithbauer@ufl.edu](mailto:meredithbauer@ufl.edu) or Lourdes Mederos at [rodriguezl@ufl.edu](mailto:rodriguezl@ufl.edu) or 954-242-8439.

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## Be a Part of Something Special. Be a Parrish Care Partner!

### Open interviews - every Tuesday, 9 a.m.-noon

Full Time, Per Diem or Part Time jobs available!

- Registered Nurses
- RN Clinical Coordinators
- RN Charge Nurses
- Certified Nursing Assistant
- Medical Assistant
- Emergency Medicine Technologist
- Respiratory Technologists
- CT Technologists
- EKG Technologists
- Quality Improvement
- MRI Technologists
- Radiology Technologist
- Phlebotomist
- Identity Access Management Analyst
- Paramedic
- Sterile Processing Technician
- Cardiovascular Invasive Specialist
- Athletic Trainer

Main Hospital: 951 N. Washington Avenue, Titusville  
Career Site: [www.Parrishhealthcare.com/careers](http://www.Parrishhealthcare.com/careers)

## 100th Pollution Reduction Project Completed by Brevard County's SOIRL Program

Brevard County's Save Our Indian River Lagoon (SOIRL) Program is excited to announce the completion of its 100th pollution reduction project and will be hosting a public event to celebrate this milestone.

Clams Across the Lagoon Event

February 1, 2025, from 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Sand Point Park, Titusville

Please join us on the A. Max Brewer Bridge to broadcast clams across the lagoon below! Participate in accelerating restoration progress in the northern Indian River Lagoon and then visit information booths and food trucks at Sand Point Park. Learn how decreased algae blooms, better water clarity and expanding seagrass beds are signs of progress. To capitalize on these improving conditions, the University of Florida and Brevard Zoo have been growing millions of nature's filtration engineers - clams - to release into the lagoon.

A decade ago, residents in the Indian River Lagoon's five counties joined hands across multiple lagoon causeways to bring awareness to the decline of the Indian River Lagoon. On February 1st, residents will once again stand side by side over the A. Max Brewer Bridge. This time, they will release 100,000 clams into the Indian River Lagoon to celebrate the improvements made toward a cleaner estuary. In addition, the many city, state, non-profit and community partners that have helped complete these projects will be on hand to share information on progress, future plans and ways residents can also get involved to further assist with the continued recovery of the Indian River Lagoon. Interactive exhibits, games and food trucks will also be on site for the enjoyment of all.

The SOIRL Program was approved by Brevard County voters in 2016, using funds from a half-cent sales tax to reduce and remove pollution from the Indian River Lagoon estuary, while simultaneously restoring natural habitats that further clean the water. SOIRL projects improve wastewater treatment plants, fix leaking sewer lines, remove or upgrade septic systems, treat stormwater, remove muck from the lagoon, reduce residential pollution and restore oysters, clams, seagrass, and shoreline plants.

For more information contact the SOIRL program at [IRLProject@BrevardFL.gov](mailto:IRLProject@BrevardFL.gov).

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